GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1252
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2003
INFANT MORTALITY RATE REDUCTION MISSION
ANANTA NAYAK

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up Infant Mortality Reduction Mission in some States;

(b) if so, when and the States where such Missions have been set up and the allocation of fund made by the Union Government to each Mission during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the achievement made by each Mission in reducing the Infant Mortality rate during the last three years?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a): No, Sir.

(b)&(c): Even though no Infant Mortality Reduction Mission as such has been set up, the Governemnt is fully alive to the need to reduce the rate of Infant Mortality. The Government in order to reduce the rate of Infant Mortality, is implementing the Reproductive and Child Health Programme through out the country.

Under this programme the following activities are carried out:-
(i) Immunization against six vaccine preventable diseases viz. Childhood Tuberculosis, Diptheria, Pertussis, Poliomyelitis, Measles and Tetanus,
(ii) Treatment for prevention of deaths due to acute respiratory infections and dehydration due to diarrhea
(iii) Essential newborn care.
(iv) Promotion of exclusive breastfeeding and appropriate complementary feeding practices.
(v) Programme for prophylaxis against Vitamin `A` deficiency and iron deficiency anaemia.

These interventions are being carried out though a vast net-work of Primary Health Care System.Reproductive and child health care is provided through 137271 Sub-centres, 22975 Primary Health Centres, 2935 Community Health Centres and 1748 First Referral Units. Besides there are, district hospitals, general hospitals and teaching hospitals that provide secondary and tertiary level care.

In addition to the above, in order to further improv the outreach, some other schemes have also been initiated viz.,
(i) organisation of Reproductive Child Health Camps under the Reproductive Child Health Outreach Schemes and
(ii) Dai Training Programmes in order to ensure safe delivery by a trained birth attendant in the villages.

As a result of these efforts the Infant Mortality Rate has reduced considerably.As per the Sample Registration System 2000 the Infant Mortality Rate has declined from 80 per thousand live births in 1991 to 68 per thousand live births in 2000.